## MR. ALEX. LUMSDEN, M.P.P.

A gentleman holding large interests in and having a thorough knowledge of the lumber industry of Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley is Mr. Alex. Lumsden, M.P.P. Since 1882 Mr. Lumsden has held the exclusive contract of driving the logs down the Ottawa river from the Temiscaming lake to DeJoachin Falls, a point about 42 miles above Pembroke. From the latter place the logs are hauled by the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company, which conveys them to the Ottawa mills. In 1882, when Mr. Lumsden started in the business with about 100 men, he handled 800,000 pieces of timber, ties and logs. During the past season over 2,000,000 pieces were handled, including a large amount of pulp wood, dimension timber and ties. No less than 340 men were employed, with 10 steamers, from April to December of last year.

The lumbering industry centering in Ottawa, Mr. Lumsden states, is good for many years to come. Despite the fact that a largely increased area of limits has been cut over, there is no apparent decrease in the volume of business done in the river driving. During the past season a large amount of dimension timber was floated down. Nearly all this was red pine, for which there is at present a good demand in the English market. Another feature of the business is the marked increase in the amount of pulp wood handled. This season about 6,000 cords were handled for the E. B. Eddy Company alone Last season only a few hundred cords were handled.

Mr. Lumsden looks for a continued large increase in this particular branch of his business. Next season it is understood Mr. J. R. Booth will have considerable pulp wood forwarded, as he will cut a quantity during the winter months.

Since Mr. Lumsden started driving logs, the lumbering operations have been extended a distance of about 150 miles further back. Saw logs are now being cut, where in former years square timber was taken out, and the adoption of structural steel in ship-building, railway work, mining etc., has, according to Mr. Lumsden, dealt a severe blow to the square timber industry, which on this account can never approach its former great dimensions. About the only square timber now handled is that of the smaller dimensions and highest quality used for ship decking.

The principal streams on which Mr. Lumsden works are the Ottawa at Quinze, the Blanche, Ottawa and Montreal rivers, Gordon Creek, Kippewa lake, Lake Temiscaming, Mattawa, Magnicippi and Dumoine rivers. Logs are handled for the following firms: J. R. Booth and W. C. Edwards, Ottawa; E. B. Eddy & Company, Hull; McLachlin Bros., Arnprior; Gillies Bros., Braeside; J. & B. Grier, St. Annes; Hull Lumber Company; McLaurin & McLaren, East Templeton; the Hawkesbury Lumber Company; the Pembroke Lumber Company and A. & P. White, of Pembroke. Mr. Lumsden also operates a large saw mill at Lumsden's Mills, on the Ottawa. His steamers are engaged extensively in carrying freight and passengers on the Upper Ottawa as well as in towing and handling logs. Many of the latter are brought over a stretch of 200 miles of river and lake.

The objective point is Lake Temiscaming, which is 142 miles above Pembroke. The logs are floated loose through the rivers, but are brought together in booms in the lakes, some of which are over 60 miles in length.

Mr. Lumsden has expended a large capital on improvements made necessary by his extensive business. Over $150,000 was spent on Gordon Creek alone, this being an artificial outlet from the south end of Lake Kippewa. The creek is about eight miles long and connects several small lakes. By its improvement a saving of nearly 60 miles is effected in the transportation of the logs. Mr. Lumsden also has shipyards on both the Kippewa and Temiscaming lakes, where he builds his own steamers. He has built docks, piers and booms along the lakes and rivers he traverses, representing an outlay of over $250,000; this includes steamers also.

During the season, which lasts as long as there is open water, operations are carried forward. A patrol is established the entire length of the waterways and the men are constantly engaged keeping the logs on the move. The largest tows handled by steamers take in about 35,000 logs. The past season was one of the best Mr. Lumsden has experienced, but in 1896 he also had a large run of logs numbering over 2,000,000. The capital represented by the past season's drive will total on a conservative estimate over $2,000,000.

Mr. Lumsden is the only son of the late John Lumsden, well known to early residents of Ottawa. He was born 57 years ago and was educated in the public schools and Grammar School at Ottawa. In 1863, at the age of 20, he started in the lumber business. For 17 years he was engaged by Currier & Co., the well known lumber firm, first measuring logs on the Gatineau limits, and afterwards as shipper at the saw mills in Ottawa now operated by W. C. Edwards & Company. Before he severed his connection, Mr. Lumsden had risen to the position of general manager of the business. Associated with Currier & Company, at this time, was another well known lumber firm, McLaren & Company.

Mr. Lumsden has always been eminently successful in his business affairs, and at present he is identified with several of the leading enterprises, including the Ottawa Electric Co., the Electric Railway Company and the Ottawa Car Company.

In 1896 Mr. Lumsden was elected by his fellow citizens as one of the Capital's representatives in the Provincial Parliament at Toronto. Mr. Lumsden succeeded the late Hon. E. H. Bronson in the Liberal interests and has made in the legislative halls a mark equally as high as that he gained in the business world. Mr. Lumsden occupies a well appointed residence on Stanley Ave., Ottawa, overlooking the Rideau river. On the spot he was born in the old family homestead. As a man of sound successful business methods he is esteemed throughout the Ottawa Valley.

## TESTS OF BOILER PLATES.

General mill machinists, mechanical and steam engineers are frequently required to test boiler plates. The only way to have any surety in the matter is to test the plate thoroughly. In regard to the brands, the same name or mark on boiler plates may mean a very different quality with different makers. Strength is not the only quality to be sought in a boiler plate, it must be tough and yet ductile, in order to stand the variation in strains to which it will be subjected while in use. Many plates which show a high strength are not suitable for use in a boiler, on account of being brittle and, therefore, not able to undergo the changes in dimensions which a plate must go through, owing to expansion and contraction, and, moreover, such plate would, in case of accident, give way very suddenly with no warning. A very good method is as follows: Support the plate, horizontally, at its four corners and strew the upper surface with fine sand. Tap the plate lightly on the under side; where there are defects the plate will not vibrate and the sand will remain stationary. Tests of this nature, however, cannot be relied upon to bring out many defects which are quite sure to become known in the working.

## YUKON TIMBER REGULATIONS

With a view to prevent a large area of timbered lands in the Yukon Territory being acquired for speculative purposes, provision was made in the Timber Regulations, established by the Governor-General in Council on February 28th, 1898, that not more than five berths of five square miles each should be granted to any one person or company. Some of the persons and companies who have obtained five berths have now applied for additional berths, from which to cut timber to be manufactured at their saw mills, which applications, under the existing regulations, cannot be granted. To meet the situation, it has been decided that when an applicant who has acquired five berths can show that he actually requires additional timber for manufacturing purposes at his mill or mills, the provision restricting the granting of more than five berths to one applicant will be waived.

## ERRATA.

By a typographical error the paper on "Chemical Wood Pulp," which appeared in the last issue of the "Lumberman," was credited to J. A. McCew. The author of the paper was J. A. DeCew, of Fenelon Falls, Ont. He spent last winter in post graduate work at the School of Practical Science studying the chemistry of woods in general, including destructible distillation. Mr. DeCew is desirous of obtaining further practical experience along the above lines.

A belt made up of too many pieces is rather doubtful economy. Loss of initial power, increased risk of damaging breakdowns, and lost time from repairs, make it cost more than a new belt.

The Nipegon Pulp & Paper Company have decided upon a site for their pulp mill. It will be located about ten miles up the Nipegon river.